

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has stated that claims 1-20 and 31 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review and allowance. Applicants note that claim 19 was cancelled in a previous amendment. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that the claims allowed in this case should be 1-18, 20, and 31.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Issues

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoude, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,337,475) in view of Horiguchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,616,956). Applicants have elected to cancel claims 21-30 in this application to allow this case to issue. Applicants will address the rejection of these claims in a continuation application, which will be submitted under separate cover.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

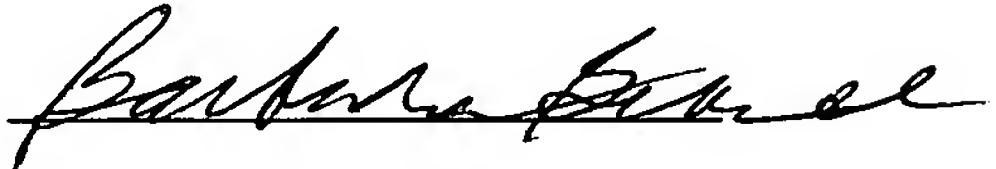


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Barbara Browne Date: September 22, 2006 Signature: 
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